Under Feed and Fodder Development Programme, a sum of Rs. 6.10 lakh has been provided to Orissa for implementing the scheme during 1993-94 & 1994-95.

Self-financing Higher Education

1359. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are pursuing the policy of self-financed higher education;

(b) whether Government have arranged soft loans from banks for the poor and middle class students;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the students belonging to the poor and lower classes are proposed to be given concession in fees under the said scheme;

(e) whether Government have received any suggestions to start an education bank; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) a statutory body established for coordinated development of technical education in the country, permits, as a matter of policy, private Societies/Trusts to set up technical institutions on self-financing basis. A High Powered Committee set up by the AICTE for mobilization of additional resources for technical education, has, *inter-alia*, recommended setting up of an Educational Development Bank of India (EDBI) for giving soft loans to institutions for their establishment and development and to give loan scholarships to needy students. A recommendation has also been made to provide full free-ships and half free-ships to needy students. These recommendations involve actions by several agencies and require a thorough process of consultation.

Duration of course taught by the Institute of Archaeology

1360. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Archaeology is one of the best Institutions in Asia run by Archaeological Survey of India where comprehensive course in Archaeology is taught;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Institute of Archaeology selects Post Graduate students from all over India on competitive basis for this training; and

(c) if so, what is the duration of the course and how many students are awarded Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology every year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Institute of Archaeology is one of the best institutions in South Asia and the only one of its kind in India where comprehensive training, both theoretical and practical, in various branches of archaeology with a multidisciplinary approach, is imparted.

(b) Yes, Sir. Candidates possessing Master's Degree in Ancient/Medieval Indian history/Archaeology/ Anthropology from a recognised university or equivalent have to qualify an All India competitive examination followed by an interview for final selection for admission to the said course.

(c) The duration of the course is two years and on an average 11 students are awarded Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology, each year.